(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has given the approval to the above projects; and

(e) if so, the funds allocated by the Government for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b), (c) and (e) The details are as under :-

New Lines

S.No.	Name of the Project	Zone/Railway	Funds allotted in 96-97 (In Crs. of Rs.)	Target Date
1	Nandyal-Yerranguntala	South Central	0.50	10th Plan
2	Sakri-Hassanpur	North Eastern	3.00	9th Plan
3	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur	Southern	1.00	9th Plan
4	Haridaspur-Paradeep	South Eastern	1.00	9th Plan
5	Dausa-Gangapur City	Western	0.50	*Work will be taken up after CCEA approval. Target will be fixed once work is taken up.
6	Kumarghat-Agartala	Northeast Frontier	1.00	10th Plan.
Gauge Conversion :				
1	Mansi-Saharsa	North Eastern	08.00	31.12.97
2	Hajipur-Bachwara	North Eastern	10.67	31.12.97
3	Lumding-Silchar	Northeast Frontier	10.00	10th Plan
4	Mysore-Hassan (95-96 budget but CCEA clearance given now)	Southern	01.00	30.06.97
5	Rupsa -Bangriposi (-do-)	South Eastern	00.50	9th Plan

(d) Yes, Sir. Except 5 above which has been deferred.

Exploration of Gold

270. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the gold exploration at Ooty in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of drilling for exploration of gold in the State;

(c) the estimated gold reserves in that area; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploration of gold in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gold Exploration has been carried out by GSI in Uti area of Karnataka.

(b) A total of 9156.95 metres in 74 boreholes has been drilled in Uti area, in Uti and Uti Temple Blocks. Drilling for exploration of gold has also been carried out by GSI in Raichur, Kolar, Dharwar, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Shimoga, Hassan and Mysore districts of Karnataka.

(c) The gold reserves of 0.884 Million Tonnes (Probable Reserve) of ore with 2.04 to 18.95 gram/tonne of gold upto 130 m depth and with widths varying from 1.00 to 7.32 m has been estimated.

(d) The exploration through drilling and pitting and trenching geochemical and geophysical methods is continuing in Nagavi North-Mallasamudra blocks in Dharwar district, Chinmulgund, Kalledevar-Hosahonatti and Karjagi blocks of Shimoga Schist Belt, Darwar District, Gonnur Block, Chitradurga district and adjacent areas of Bellerra Mines, Tumkur District of Chitradurga Schist Belt and in Valageri-ambale area in Mysore district.

Relay Stations of AIR

271. SHRI S. RAMA CHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up three relay stations of AIR at Sompeta, Kakinada and Nellore